

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Measures for the FY 2007 State Grant Workplan Template

Background

As part of the FY 2007 EPA President's Budget, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) included language stating that "EPA will develop a standardized template that all States will use to develop and submit their State grant agreements."

Grant workplans typically reflect the diversity and geography of the States while still supporting the EPA national systems necessary for reporting and analyzing performance on a national, regional, state, or local level. Workplans often reflect the requirements of state legislatures, governors, and executive agencies as well as EPA. EPA's goal is to build on these sophisticated regional-state systems and processes while ensuring they include the measures necessary to provide OMB and others with standard performance reporting as described in the language below.

Principles

- Meets OMB's and EPA's needs for "consistent, meaningful performance information."
- Builds on current Agency initiatives to improve measures and the strategic alignment of grant workplans. Can facilitate Eco-Region measures.
- Minimizes the administrative burden on Regions and States.
- Augments current partnership agreement processes and workplans rather than negating or replacing them.
- Supports innovation and multimedia programs activities as well as core media programs.
- Achieves maximum buy-in from states, EPA programs, and regions.
- To the extent possible uses existing data sources or systems.
- Facilitates national implementation in year one.

In addition to the principles noted above, OSWER tried to:

- Use existing measures especially those already familiar to states.
- Select a small number of meaningful measures.

OSWER's measures cover three programs: Brownfields, Tanks and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). States will only have to report on those measures that apply to the grant. We will continue to work through the Partnership and Performance Workgroup to identify a way to do this.

Communication and Outreach

OSWER continues to make communication an important element of this new initiative. To this end, we have completed and/or planned the following activities:

- Conference call to discuss Brownfields grant with Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Superfund Research Center. (Completed March 1, 2006)

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- Discuss initiative and proposed measures with EPA Regional Superfund Division Directors. (Completed March 14, 2006)
- Call with Ron Hammerschmidt, Waste Committee Chair, for the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). (Planned to be complete by March 17, 2006)
- Discuss initiative and proposed measures with Regional Tank Division Directors. (Planned for week of March 20, 2006)
- Discuss initiative and proposed measures with EPA Regional RCRA Division Directors. (Planned for Week of March 20, 2006)
- Discuss initiative and measures with ECOS Planning Committee. (Planned to be complete by March 20, 2006)